

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for writing data to a first boot area of a plurality of boot areas of a synchronous memory device, the method comprising:
 - initiating a write operation to the first boot area;
 - reading data from a register circuit and detecting a security voltage; and
 - authorizing the write operation to the first boot area if the data is in a first state and the security voltage exceeds a predetermined voltage.
2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - checking a status of a detection circuit if the data is in a second state; and
 - authorizing the write operation to the first boot area based on an output of the detection circuit.
3. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the detection circuit monitors an externally provided signal applied to the memory device.
4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of boot areas comprise area ~~comprises~~ memory cells located at least significant and most significant addressable memory sectors of the synchronous memory device.
5. (currently amended) A memory device comprising:
 - an array of memory cells comprising ~~at least one~~ a first and a second boot area;
 - a data register that stores protect status bits corresponding to a protect status of each boot area; and
 - a state machine capable of executing a method of writing to each boot area including initiating a write operation to either the first or the second ~~the at least one~~ boot area, reading the protect status bits from the data register, determining a voltage level of a security voltage, and authorizing the write operation to ~~the at least one~~ of the first or the second boot area if the protect status bits are in a first state or the security voltage is greater than a predetermined voltage.
6. (currently amended) A memory device comprising:
 - an array of memory cells having ~~at least one~~ a first and a second boot area;

a non-volatile data register that stores protect status bits indicating a protect status of the at least one boot area;

a volatile data register corresponding to the non-volatile data register such that the protect status bits are transferred from the non-volatile data register to the volatile data-register; ~~and~~

a security voltage input that provides a security function for the first and second boot areas; and

control circuitry coupled to the non-volatile and volatile registers and the security voltage input to selectively prevent erase or write operations from being performed on the at least one boot area in response to a state of the protect status bits and the voltage level of the security voltage.

7. (original) The memory device of claim 6 wherein the control circuitry is capable of transferring the protect status bits from the non-volatile data register to the volatile data register on power-up of the memory device.

8. (currently amended) A method for writing data to a boot area of a plurality of boot areas of a memory device, the method comprising:

transferring a protect status bit from a non-volatile data register to a volatile data register;

initiating a write operation to the boot area;

reading the protect status bit from the volatile data register; ~~and~~

reading a security voltage; and

authorizing the write operation to the boot area if the protect status bit is in a first state or the security voltage is greater than a predetermined voltage.

9. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein the protect status bit is transferred from the non-volatile data register to the volatile data register upon power-up of the memory device.

10. (new) The method of claim 8 and further including writing data to a second boot area of the plurality of boot areas when the first boot area no longer has sufficient capacity to hold additional data.